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FOR 1880.
(With which is incorporated "THE CHINA DIRECTORY.")

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EIGHTEENTH YEAR

in its existence, and is now ready for sale. It has been compiled from the most authentic sources, and is not only a valuable work, but also a Directory and a Work of Reference on Commercial Matters.

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The Work is published with the following Plans and Maps:—Chromo-lithograph Plans of VICTORIA, HANGKOW, CANTON, the FIVE REIGN SETTLEMENTS at SHANGHAI, a Chromo-lithograph Plan of the COAST OF SHANGHAI, and Maps of the COAST OF CHINA and HONGKONG.

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Daily Press Office, 13th January, 1880.

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Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 19th, 1880.

Elsewhere we reproduce from the columns of our Shanghai morning contemporary the translation of an Imperial decree relating, temporarily, to the sentence of execution passed upon the illustrious Chinese How.

The Decree does not, as the N. C. Daily News appears to think, pardon the ex-Ambassador, for in that document it is twice expressly stated that the sentence of death is remitted temporarily, and it is ordered that he be detained in prison until the Marquis Tso has reached Russia and it is seen how the negotiations are likely to result. Our How is reprieved pending the negotiations, and not of deference to the opinion of the Russian Government. It is very likely that the Chinese Authorities have also been influenced by the wishes and advice of the Foreign Ministers generally, but whether this be so or not, the respite of Our How is made in the Decree to appear as a concession to Russia, with whom, as the document carefully sets forth, China has been upon a footing of amity for more than two hundred years. A sop to Cerberus is clearly intended, but it is extremely doubtful whether it will be gratefully accepted, more especially as the fate of the disgraced Envoy is made to appear dependent upon the action of the Authorities at St. Petersburg.

The Russian Government may feel regret that Our How should stand in part of losing his head through negotiating a treaty favourable to them, but they are not likely to allow sentimental influences to weigh in the balance with Muscovite interests. It is, however, a significant fact that an attempt—even of this nature—should have been made by the Chinese Government to conciliate Russia, and we think our Shanghai contemporaries are right in construing it into a proof that the peace party have gained more voice in the Imperial Councils. It is to be hoped, in the interests of China, that when Colonel Gorman arrives in Peking his

voice may serve to turn the scale in favour of a pacific policy, for there is every reason to believe that the Chinese can reap nothing but disaster in a war with a great military Power like Russia, and would infinitely have to pay for failure by a cession of territory and a heavy pecuniary indemnity. But it must not be forgotten that the dispute between the two countries has gone so far, and such extensive preparations for war have been made, that Russia will not be eager to come to terms, and if she does so, will be sure to demand an indemnity for expenses already incurred in sending out a large fleet into China waters. There is no doubt that the Treaty of Livadia is a most one-sided convention, but the Russians will fall back upon the fact that the Chinese Ambassador accepted its provisions in the name of his Government, and on the strength of his signature the Czar ratified the document. The Chinese simply ask, we believe, for the present that the work of Our How shall be blotted out, and the old position of affairs restored. This will not suit the Russians, and we do not think they will care to see a struggle averted in which the chances of success are so obviously in their favour. A foreign war is almost a necessity for the continuance of Imperialism in Russia; the people can only be induced to "wear their iron" quietly while the Imperial eagles are being borne in triumph into foreign countries, accomplishing new conquests and widening the ever growing boundaries of the Czar's colossal Empire. The Chinese must, therefore, we are afraid, if they are anxious for the preservation of peace, be prepared to pay a higher price for it than was necessary some six months ago.

The delivery of the French Mail was begun at 8.40 yesterday morning.

Mr. W. M. Deane, Captain Superintendent of

Fishes, left England on the 5th inst. for Hong-

Kong.

The gubnet Midge, out of commission, was

taken over to the Kowloon Dock yesterday morn-

ing to be re-commissioned.

The new Merchant Shipping Ordinance came

into force on Saturday, its proclamation being

dated the previous day.

The British brig John Nicholson, from

Hongkong to London, via Plover Point (Eng-

lish Channel), on the 5th inst.

The Kipper, which left Cardiff on the 17th

April for Hongkong, was spoken on the 17th

inst. in lat. 4 N. long. 27 W.

We note that the Consul d'Administration du

Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris have decided to

establish an agency at Melbourne.

The Russian Consul paid a visit on board

the Russian corvette Prince Potemkin, on Saturday,

and received the customary salute on leaving.

The resignations of Commandant and Captain

Atwell Coxon and Lieutenant Dalry, Hongkong

Volunteers, are gazetted, also the appointment

of Captain J. F. Francis to be Acting Com-

mandant, vice Coxon.

Attention is directed to a Notice to Mariners

advertised on our front page by the Imperial

Maritime Customs, in reference to the Kiatian

Light-vessel, the position of which is to be tem-

porarily changed.

In connection with the parade of the Fire

Brigade on Thursday night we understand that

the Volunteer Fire engine did not break down

as was stated, but the sudden stoppage was

solely due to the insufficient supply of water.

Chinese seem to be doing well at the gold

diggers, and accounts, good evidence of which

is the fact that the British steamship Captain

Rowin, which recently arrived at this

port, brought no less than 10,000 ounces of the

precious metal.

The Annamese gubnet Lrt Tab was towed

over to the Commodore Dock on Saturday

morning where she will undergo some very ex-

tensive repairs, and it is expected that the latter

she will be fitted with a hull of steel.

The work will occupy about four months.

The following were the vessels on the berth at

Hongkong, on the departure of the last mail,

June 11th:—At London:—Steamers—

Rohilla, China, Escompte, and Agamemnon.

Sailing vessels—Oldenburg and Zimna. At Val-

paraiso:—Steamers—At Cardiff:—Sailing

vessels—Orion and Valparaiso.

A correspondent writes to the Journal de

Suisse calling attention to the number of con-

fiscal duties introduced into that Colony by

the Chinese who arrive in hundreds by every

steamer. He estimates the number of such duties

at about 100,000 francs, and recommends that

bargains of all Chinese passengers should be

searched in order to avoid the introduction of

narcotics.

In Saturday's Gazette there is published cor-

respondence relating to the rendering of legal

testimony given by the interpreters in the Supreme

Court. Dr. Bidal draws attention to the fact

that the "penal services" has been re-

sented "transportation" for the term in Chinese.

He recommends, therefore, the rendering "de-

lance" as prisoners, however, are not sen-

tenced in any way, the one rendering seems as

objectionable as the other.

The British steamer (Gardner, Captain Rowin,

containing a large number of Chinese, arrived at

the 18th inst., a large, American built, on shore

on the Cayo Del Rey (Mindoro-Strait). The

Gardner put up signals but received no answer,

no person appearing on board. The provisions

were found to be good, and the vessel was

most probably the American barque Corrie

Humphreys, which was chartered at Manila to

load at Iloilo for New York, and was wrecked

on the 10th inst. in Mindoro Strait.

It is worthy of note that Captain Besant, of

the Russian corvette Prince Potemkin, has

been in command of the vessel for the last four

years. For some time past the vessel has

been in the Mediterranean and on her arrival

she was ordered to proceed to China at the

request of the Chinese Government, and to

change her command was intended. By the

French mail yesterday Captain Tiffet, who has

been in China before, arrived, and will at once

take command of the Prince Potemkin. Captain

Besant will proceed to Europe.

We have to acknowledge the receipt, from Dr.

Magowan, of Shanghai, of a pamphlet in Chinese

containing directions for counteracting the ef-

fects of opium poisoning, and for the treatment of

opium smokers. The expense of publication has

been borne by Mr. Wong King Sing, and it is

stated that the pamphlet is a most accurate and

valuable work, and that it is intended to be

distributed to the Chinese people, and that it

will be of great service to the Chinese people.

The following were the current rates of freight

for vessels on the berth at home on the departure

of the last mail, June 11th:—Per Conference

steamers:—No Hongkong or Shanghai, 21 lbs.

weight, and 22 measurement; to Hankow or

Nagasaki, 22 lbs. weight, and 23 measure-

ment; to Yokohama, 22 lbs. weight, and 23

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We take the following items from the London

and China Press of the 11th inst.:—

The Chinese Minister and his Secretary were

present at the gallies and the Chinese Minister

in the House of Commons during the debate

upon the opium trade.

Mr. G. T. Moore, who was appointed as Second

Secretary of Her Majesty's Legation at Peking

on the 24th inst., and proceeds, via America, to take

up his appointment.

The Russian Government are making pre-

parations in view of immediate hostilities break-

ing out with China. At Constantinople and Odessa

steamers have been placed in readiness to convey

troops and war material to the frontier, and a

military corps with a body of irregular cavalry

are being formed from the population of the

Black Sea.

A Russian telegram from St. Petersburg,

dated 11th inst., states that a Russian force

has been sent to the frontier of China, and that

